housing 24.3, the granular flux material will be separated from the air and will descend downwardly as indicated by the arrow 40. Exhaust air will exit from an upper portion of the transfer means as indicated by the arrow 42, the exhaust air passing through an internal filter with housing 24.2. The flux material indicated by the arrow 40 will be received within the intermediate hopper 22.--

Page 11, line 29, insert a "." at the end of the line.

In the claims:

1. (Amended) Apparatus for introducing granular mold flux onto the top of a slab being cast within a continuous casting mold; the apparatus comprising:

a source of granular mold flux;

an intermediate hopper for receiving granular mold flux from the source;

transfer means for transferring the granular mold flux from the source of granular mold flux to the intermediate hopper; and

a delivery apparatus [means] for feeding the granular mold flux from the intermediate hopper to the top of the slab being cast within the continuous casting mold, the delivery apparatus including

at least one delivery tube assembly interconnected with the intermediate hopper, and

a pneumatically operated variable diameter pinch valve for controlling the flow rate of the granular mold flux from the intermediate hopper through the delivery tube, the pinch valve including a rubber sleeve through which the granular mold flux passes, and a source of air and a pressure control valve to vary the diameter of the rubber sleeve between fully closed, fully open, and a plurality of intermediate positions so that the flow rate of the granular mold flux through the delivery tube may be varied.

5. (Amended) The apparatus for introducing granular mold flux onto the top of a slab being cast within a continuous casting mold as set forth in claim 3 wherein there is a single delivery tube assembly, the delivery tube having [a] discharge branches which can deliver granular mold flux to either side of a ceramic pouring tube.

8. (Amended) The apparatus for introducing granular mold flux onto the top of a slab being cast within a continuous casting mold as set forth in claim 1 wherein the diameter of the pinch valve is optimally 1 inch, and the diameter of the [deliver] delivery tube is at least 1 inch.

12. (Amended) Apparatus for introducing granular mold flux onto the top of a slab being cast within a continuous casting mold; the apparatus comprising:

a source of granular mold flux;

delivery means to deliver the granular mold flux from the